

Rhuddlan Castle 3rd/4th June

The Battle of Rhuddlan 1075 A.D

Rhuddlan Castle will celebrate one of its earliest and decisive battles, fought in an age long before the construction of King Edward I castle. We will take you back to the age of the Welsh/Hiberno-Norse Prince Gruffydd ap Cynan and to the year 1075 AD, the year of Gruffydd's epic attack against the might of the Anglo-Norman's led by Lord Robert of Rhuddlan, veteran of the Battle of Hastings.

You will be able to walk amongst the Norman, Saxon, Welsh and Viking encampments, talk to the warriors, traders and camp followers. During the weekend's event, not only will visitors meet Gruffydd ap Cynan and his commanders, but they will encounter Lord Robert, his Norman entourage and somewhat reluctant allies, the recently defeated Anglo Saxons.

The event will take place on Friday and Saturday between 10.00am and 5.00pm. For more information on events, visit <https://cadw.gov.wales/battle-rhuddlan>, find Cadw on Facebook or follow @CadwWales on Twitter.

Provisional Timetable (both days):

10:00 Norman, Saxon, Welsh and Hiberno Norse military encampments open to the public

11:30 SKIRMISH – Prince Gruffydd ap Cynan surprise attack on the Anglo-Norman fortress

12:45: Prince Gruffydd's War Council. (Inner Ward encampment). Meet the Welsh Prince, council and battle commanders.

13:15 Raising the 'Young Warriors Army'. Bring your children along to be recruited into the Welsh/Viking army.

14:30 Mustering the two armies in preparation for the Battle of Rhuddlan. Your chance to march with the Welsh army to the field of battle. Closely followed by Lord Robert's Anglo-Normans.

15:00 Battle of Rhuddlan

LHE

Thursday 2nd June is the set up day.

Owing to the busy nature of the site over Bank Holidays, Cadw have requested that we do not arrive to setup before **3pm** on the Thursday. We will attempt to fit all of the LHE inside the Castle Keep (we can get about 30 tents inside). This will be a mixed camp. Any overflow will be directed to areas outside the keep to areas away from the prevailing winds. **No vehicles are allowed across the timber bridge**. Please unload your vehicles as close to the bridge as you can. We will try to give what assistance we can on the day, trolleys, wheelbarrows, Welshmen....etc. Please remove all LHE large vehicles (vans and trailers) to the school yard (you will be directed by marshals). Smaller vehicles may remain on the Cadw car park for the duration of the event.

Combat

Timeline 1075 a.d. Battle of Rhuddlan Prince Gruffydd ap Cynan's attack on the Anglo-Norman stronghold at Rhuddlan. Welsh/Hiberno-Norse V s Lord Robert of Rhuddlan – Norman and Saxon.

There will be a skirmish/weapons display in the castle grounds both mornings (see timetable). The main battle will be taking place in the woods to the rear of the castle. It's far more atmospheric and photogenic!! The scripted battle will be followed immediately by a 're-fight' (no script) each day.

Modern (Plastic) Camping

Located in the paddock field to the rear of the castle this is available from Thursday through to Sunday morning. Please do not turn up earlier – the gate will be locked and there will be no one available to assist.

Portable toilets provided. Water standpipe at the rear of the Cadw office next to the castle.

You may park your car alongside your tent. Please be economical with parking spaces as we have a lot of people to accommodate. Overflow parking at the school.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed but must be accompanied at all times and on a lead.

Fires

We are allowing fires on the plastic camp this year (or in the woods if you prefer) but

because you are camped on scheduled ground they **must be raised and suitably insulated (i.e sand)**. There is in the woods adjacent to the camp a large firepit surrounded by wooden stools at your disposal if you so wish. We will provide some wood. There is plenty to forage in the adjacent woods and down by the river. Similar rules apply to the LHE fires. Please please **do not scorch the grass in the castle**. Wood store for LHE will be in one of the gatehouse towers. Water supply as above.

Rubbish

Please bag up and remove all of your rubbish to the Cadw office when you leave. There are bins provided.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR RUBBISH ON THE PLASTIC CAMPSITE!

Refreshments

Jane sells coffee/tea at the Cadw shop and there may well be someone else selling breakfasts (?). Please do not drink modern beverages etc in sight of the public after **10am on show days**. There are flushing toilets at the Cadw office and portaloos alongside.

There is a cracking 'Bikers' café (The Whistle Stop') just outside Rhuddlan that does inexpensive breakfasts/lunch etc. Ask a member of Cwmwd Ial for directions. 5 mins drive from the Castle.

Rhuddlan has cash machines, takeaways, fish n chip shops, garage with co-op style shop, Aldi's and a Sainsbury out of town.

PUBS The Castle Inn across from the castle has grown use to us all in kit over the years. Its basic, friendly and a good drinkers pub. Other pubs in town do good pub meals, real ales etc.

Accident and Emergency

Bodelwyddan Hospital A&E. 10-15mins drive from the castle. See Cwmwd Ial or Cadw staff for further details.

By Rail

Rhyl station. Bus service to Rhuddlan. (30 mins on a bad day - approx)

Contact Cwmwd Ial, Steve Antrobus email: cadfanfoel@gmail.com or Ian Grant email fr.grant@btinternet.com